Secta. II–27—100,006—21-6-52.

Food (1954 9) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 363

363

Dated 22 - 4 - 49

[Despatch Abstract.]

Rationing - Statutory and informal surplus districts- Introduction of Papers recorded - Orders passed.

Notes

FOOD DEPARTMENT

While reverting to the policy of decontrol, the Government of India have stated that by October 1949, the position regarding rationing in November 1947 should be reached. In accordance with these instructions, rationing has been introduced in all deficit districts in the Province.

2. The question for consideration now is whether rationing should be introduced in the surplus districts or not. The Board has not yet sent its report in the matter. It is understood that it is still examining this question.

3. Decontrol has not affected procurement materially in surplus districts. Rationing is extremely unpopular whether in towns or in rural areas. People living in those districts except those in the upland areas did not complain of any scarcity of foodgrains during the decontrol period. If these aspects alone are considered, rationing appears unnecessary in these districts. But there are several deficit taluks in surplus districts also. These deficit taluks are in the same position as deficit districts where statutory and rural rationing has been introduced. At present, in these deficit taluks of surplus districts, the District Supply Officers arrange for the supply of adequate quantities of foodgrains from surplus taluks. Foodgrains are now distributed informally through retail shops without reference to any scale. Introduction of rationing in the deficit taluks will prevent smuggling of foodgrains and may help procurement also. The present commitments in respect of rice in the distribution of foodgrains through retail shops to non-producers may also be reduced as there will be a fixed scale and composition of rations under rationing. For these reasons it was considered that rationing might be confined only to the deficit taluks of surplus districts and that it need not be extended to surplus taluks. But the previous Hon'ble Premier minuted that rationing need not be introduced in either surplus or deficit areas of surplus districts.

4. The Hon'ble Member for Food, New Delhi, in a D.O. letter dated 4.3.49 to previous Hon'ble Premier, has stated thatprocurement is bound to suffer if rationing is not introduced and that in the present context the only solution lies ∅ in total procurement and maximum rationing. A reply has been sent to that letter stating that under the intensive procurement scheme in this Province all available surplus will be procured whether rationing is in force or not, that this year the procurement has been much far better than what it was in the previous years, that procurement cannot be made more effective by merely introducing all-out rationing and that on the other hand, it may result in giving irritation to the people of these districts without bringing any corresponding advantage. No official reply has yet been received from the Government of India. But, the Director-General of Food, during his discussion with Hon'ble Minister (Food) on 6.4.49 has stated that the Government of India would not insist on the introduction of rural rationing in surplus parts of surplus districts and that rationing must be introduced in the towns, particularly those that are not in the heart of the delta and in upland taluks of the districts as there may be difficulties in regard to supplies of foodgrains in those areas in the lean months. He has also stated that the Government of India's firm conviction is that it would be easier to maintain price levels by introducing rationing in such areas.

5. It is for consideration whether in view of the

as
attitude of the Government of India/expressed by the Director-General of Food and of the circumstances explained at 'A' on page 16 above, rationing may be introduced in muncipal towns and in upland taluks of surplus districts

or
whether for the reasons given at 'B' above, the previous decision not to introduce rationing in any part of the surplus districts may be adhered to.

The file may be circulated to Hob'ble Minister (Food) and Hon'ble Premier.

x x x
11.4.49.

On a question of policy, we may acceptthe general principle that the deficit pockets in surplus districts should be brought under informal or rual rationing and that such of the muncipal towns whether in the surplus portions or in the deficit pockets, which are sufficiently important or which are likely to create difficulties later may be brought under statutory rationing. Applying this criterion there is no need to introduce any rationing in any part of Tanjore district. Even Arantangi taluk will be generally self-sufficient, or if it is not so in a bad year, the deficit will be negligible. But the upland taluks in the districts East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur and Nellore stand on a different footing. They are definitely short of foodgrains and are being fed by regular allotments of foodgrains every month but there is no guarantee that the quantity sent into these areas are being properly distributed, There is nothing to prevent the quota-holder from distributing all the quota to his own friends and relations and leaving the other people in the lurch, except the vague fear of a discovery and cancellation of the quota, which may not materialise.

As regards municipal towns, also, there is no such town of sufficient importance in Tanjore District where the non-introduction of rationing is likely to create difficulties later on. From this point of view, I would consider the introduction of rationing in the following towns necessary:-

B
(1) Rajahmundry in East Godavari;
(2) Vijayawada in Kistna; and
(3) Guntur, Chirala, Perala, Ongole and Narasaraopet in Guntur district.

I would therefore suggest the introduction of informal rationing in areas referred to at 'A' above and of statutory rationing in the towns mentioned at 'B'. This would not only be in conformity with our undertaking with the Government of India at the time of the last ministers' conference but would also help us in maintaining our price levels without fear of any serious disturbance by large unregulated demands from these towns.

M.A.K. (Secretary).
12.4.49.

H.M. (Food).

"Informal rationing may be introduced as at 'A' above and statutory rationing as at 'B' above".

x x x
13.4.

H. Premier.

(Sd) P.S.K.
16.4.

Please see orders in circulation above. Board's proposals since received are at pages 61-77 c.f. All the Collectors of surplus districts and the Board are of the opinion that rationing whether statutory or informal need not be introduced in surplus districts.

The list of municipal towns in surplus districts is put up at (L). With reference to 'B' on page 18 ante, it is submitted that Perala in Guntur district is not a municipal town. It is also presumed that omission of Eluru municipal town in West Godavari district from the list at 'B' on page 18 ante is intentional. Subject to orders, a draft Memorandum to Board and a draft D.O. letter to the Director-General of Food are submitted.

Yes. W.G. is the heaviest surplus district in the circars.

M.A.K.
19.4.49.

'X' - Secretary may try and now see.

M.M.
19.4.49.

M.A.K.
19.4.

With reference to 'X' overleaf, it is submitted that only Chirala has become a municipality recently. It is understood from Local Administration Department that Perala is not even a panchayat area and that it is within the limits of Chirala municipality. For orders whether draft Memorandum below may issue.

'Issue'.

M.M.
20.4.49.

(Issued as Memo. No. 2652/B/49-2 dated 20.4.49).
(Issued as letter No. 2652/B/49-3 dated 20.4.49).

The papers may now be recorded.

M.M.
22.4.1949.

G.O. Ms. No. 363, Food. dated 22.4.1949.

Rationing - Statutory and Informal surplus districts - Introduction of - Papers recorded - Orders passed.

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Superintendent
Madras Record Office

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPTT.

This file relates to the question of introduction of rationing in surplus districts. After due consideration of the recommendations of the Premiers' and Food Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi in September 1948, the Government of India directed that Provincial Governments should reintroduce intensive procurement and rationing to the extent they were in force in November 1947. In November 1948 rationing was in force throughout the Province by October 1949. However this Government introduced rationing (statutory and informal) in the deficit district only. As regards surplus districts the Government considered it unnecessary to introduce rationing in any area on the ground that the procurement will not improve by the introduction of rationing and that it will only increase the commitments of the Government besides large expenditure on staff, etc. The Government of India however desired that rationing should be introduced in the surplus districts also in order to maximise procurement. After personal discussion with the Director-General of Food in April 1949, the then Hon'ble Minister (Food), Madras agreed to introduce rationing in the deficit pockets of surplus districts and in major towns that were likely to give difficulty during the lean months. With reference to this discussion, orders were issued for the introduction of informal rationing in the upland taluks of West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Nellore districts and statutory rationing in the towns of Rajahmundry, Peddapuram, Vijayawada, Guntur, Narasaraopet, Ongole, and Chirala. Informal rationing has already been introduced in the uplands of West Godavari district with effect from 19.6.49. In other areas preliminary steps were in progress. At the Delhi conference held on the 1st and 2nd August 1949 also, it was decided to continue the present policy of procurement and rationing and to appoint an expert committee to examine the existing systems and tender advise so as to have a uniform policy throughout India. It is not known whether the question of introduction of rationing in the surplus districts the question of introduction of rationing in the surplus districts in Madras Province was discussed at the Conference. Official proceedings of the Conference have not yet been received. However in view of the numerous protests received against the introduction of rationing in surplus districts, Hon'ble Minister (Food) ordered that rationing might be withheld only in the municipal towns of surplus districts pending receipt of instructions from the Government of India on the proceedings of Food Conference. Orders were issued accordingly. Rural rationing in the upland taluks is however continued. In the meantime the Director-General of Food, was at the Secretariat on 10.9.49 and at the discussion with H.M. (Food) he has agreed, that if the non-introduction of rationing in towns in surplus districts would not affect either procurement or local prices, there is no harm in not introducing rationing in such towns. The Government of India were informed even at the first instance that the non-introduction of rationing will not affect procurement. However they did not agree with this Government then. In view of the fact that the Director-General of Food has now agreed with this Government in the matter of introduction of rationing in surplus districts, it is for orders whether the introduction of statutory rationing in the municipal towns will be withheld permanently and if so whether rural rationing in the upland taluks also will be withheld as it does not seem practicable and also reasonable to have informal rationing in rural areas surrounding the non-rationed towns. After orders are passed, a draft letter to the Government of India will be submitted, if necessary, for official concurrence in the matter. The file may be circulated to Hon'ble Minister (Food) and Hon'ble Premier.

Yes. Was discussed in a general way
M.A.K.
14.9.49.

Except in Guntur district.
M.A.K.

AA
He seems to have agreed only in respect of towns.
M.A.K.

We can proceed with informal rationing in the rural areas.
M.A.K.

M.M.
13.9.49.

Director-General of Food stated that Government of India would not insist on the introduction of rationing in the Municipal towns of surplus districts, provided the Provincial Government was convinced that the non-introduction of rationing would not affect either the procurement or the local prices. He also made it clear, that the Government of India would not be prepared to extend the same concession to the deficit pockets in the surplus districts. It means therefore, that we will have to push through with our rural rationing in the upland taluks of the surplus districts. Orders may therefore be issued on the above lines, viz., to put off rationing in the Municipal towns situated in the surplus districts and to go ahead with the arrangements for rationing in the deficit pockets of surplus districts.

M.A.K.
14.9.49.

H.M. (Food). x x x
20.9.

Hon'ble Premier. P.S.K.
24.9.49.

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Extracts from file bearing C.No. 42155/A/49 relating to discussions with the Director-General of Food (India) to 'Rationing'.

The Director-General of Food met H.M. (Food) on 10.9.1949 and Hon'ble Premier to-day, i.e. 22.9.1949 and we had discussions about (1) intensive procurement policy (2) extension of rationing to surplus districts; and (3) wheat prices.

* * *

As regards the extension of rationing to the surplus districts, after considerable discussion, Mr. Karunakara Menon stated that Government of India would not insist on the introduction of rationing in municipal towns if the Provincial Government were satisfied that the non-introduction of rationing in Municipal towns would not render procurement more difficult or would not upset the local price levels. But he however desired that the deficit pockets in the surplus districts should have rationing.

M.A.K.
22.9.49.

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FOOD & AGRICULTURE DEPTT.

Orders in circulation on page 12 ante may be perused. In the official proceedings of the Conference nothing more than what is mentioned at 'A' on page 10 ante, has been stated. With reference to 'K' above, it may be mentioned that all the proposed towns except Vijayawada are situated in deficit taluks of surplus districts. However it is presumed that that the intention is not to

introduce rationing - statutory or informal - in any town of a surplus district. It is proposed to discuss the subject in the Provincial Food Advisory Committee meeting on 13th and 14th October. Pending that, if orders are to issue with reference to orders in circulation on page 12 ante, the Board may be informed that the Government have decided not to introduce rationing in any of the municipal towns in surplus districts and that the introduction of rationing in the uplan taluks should however be proceeded with. The Board may be asked to disband the staff employed in the municipal towns.

The Government of India may also be informed of the decision. Subject to orders a draft Memorandum and a draft letter are submitted for approval.

It is for consideration whether the Govt. may issue final orders in the matter now with reference to the decision at page 12 above and the notes at page 13 above before it is considered by the Provincial Food Advisory Committee. It is not unlikely that members of this Committee may hold strong views to the contrary and insist that there should be no differential treatment between surplus and deficit districts. If it is considered that the Food Advisory Committee need not consider this question at all, the subject may be eliminated from the agenda. The draft below may in that case be approved.

x x x
25.9.49.

Orders have already been obtained in circulation. We may issue orders. But, there woul be no objection to ~~discontinuing~~ keeping the matter in the Provincial Committee meeting and the subject may be allowed to summon in the agenda.

M.M.
25.9.

Having waited so long, I think we may wait till the Provincial Advisory Committee meets.

M.A.K.
26.9.

M.A.K.
26.9.

H.M. (Food).

We have already decided not to introduce in the towns of surplus districts. There is no need to continue the staff.

x x x
27.9.49.

The minutes of H.M. (Food) above may be perused. The intention of H.M. seems to be that the decision already taken may be enforced without awaiting the views of the Provincial Food Advisory Committee in the matter. For orders whether the draft below may now issue.

x x x
28.9.

"Secretary may perhaps see".

M.M.
28.9.

M.A.K.
28.9.

(Issued as letter No. 29913/B/49-3 dated 28.9.1949.
(Issued as Memorandum No. 29913/B/49-4 dated 28.9.1949).

Notes of discussions at the Provincial Food Advisory Committee meeting held on the 13th and 14th regarding the introduction of rationing in surplus districts is put up at pages 37-45 c.f. The Government have after careful consideration already ordered that rationing need not be introduced in the municipal towns of surplus districts. Informal rationing is now confined only to the deficit taluks of surplus districts. No further action is necessary in this file. The papers may be stitched with G.O. Ms. No. 363, Food, dated 22.4.1949.

(Sd). x x x
10.11.49.

M.M.
10.11.1949.

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/True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s. 8.7.

4/7.